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ABSTRACT

This is the report on a study undertaken to determine the pattern of bibliographic citations in articles published in the 1967 editions of twelve journals identified by linguistics as core journals in linguistics and language sciences. Among the findings reported are: the number of articles, range, and average number of citations per article; the percentages of citations in various time periods; median date and median age of citations in various categories of publications; authors citing themselves in articles; distribution of authors of citations; and the number of citations to selected references. Findings are reported in tabular form. Findings of this study were found to agree generally with those of similar studies undertaken for journals in fields such as communications research and sociology. (FWB)

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CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

LANGUAGE INFORMATION NETWORK AND CLEARINGHOUSE SYSTEM (LINCS)

CITATION PATTERNS IN SELECTED CORE JOURNALS
FOR LINGUISTICS

By Miriam W. Rappaport

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Miriam W. Rappaport

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1. Introduction

To describe the flow of information within a discipline and to indicate information transfer through related disciplines, a number of studies of the bibliographic citation patterns in technical journal articles have been made during the past two decades. Parker, Paisley, and Garrett (1967) made an extensive study of citations in journals read by communications researchers. Lin and Nelson (1969) reported on bibliographic reference patterns in sociological journals. Broadus conducted two studies (1952 and 1967) on a core journal in the field of sociology, the American Sociological Review; and he surveyed (1953) the citation patterns in four journals representative of the field of speech. Khignesse and Osgood (1967) studied citation characteristics of psychological journals in 1950 and 1960. Numerous studies have also been made in the hard sciences, but there have been none dealing with citation characteristics and the flow of information in the general area of linguistics and the language sciences.

A study was therefore undertaken to determine the patterns of bibliographic citations in articles published in 12 journals defined as core publications in linguistics and the language sciences. (A citation is herein defined as a reference in an article to another source.) The 12 core journals were selected by polling 28 members of the staff of the Center for Applied Linguistics who were identified as linguists by criteria that included formal academic training in linguistics, experience in linguistics or the language sciences, and subjective classification of themselves as linguists. These 28 linguists were given a list of 36 journals that had previously been identified by Rice and Guss (1965) as general linguistics journals and were asked which of these journals they regularly read and which they considered most significant. Respondents were permitted to add journals to this list, and such additions were then checked in the general linguistics, phonology, and related sections of the Linguistic Bibliography for 1967 and the bibliography appearing in Publications of the Modern Language Association of America, June 1967. As a result, 12 journals were selected for this study. They are listed in table 1 along with the abbreviation used for each.

Table 1. Core Linguistics Journals Used in Citation Study

<u>Journal Title</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>
Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris Paris, France	BSL
Canadian Journal of Linguistics Toronto, Canada	CJL
Foundations of Language Dordrecht, The Netherlands	FL
International Journal of American Linguistics Baltimore, Maryland	IJAL
Journal of Linguistics London, England	JL
Language Washington, D.C.	Lg
Language and Speech Teddington, England	L&S
Lingua Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Lgua
Linguistics The Hague, The Netherlands	Ltcs
Studies in Linguistics Dallas, Texas	SIL
Slovo a Slovesnost Prague, Czechoslovakia	SS
Voprosy Jazykoznanija Moscow, USSR	VJa

It was the original intent of this study to collect 3,000 citations from approximately 300 articles, 25 from each of the 12 journals listed above. Actually, as table 2 indicates, data were obtained for 295 journal articles, with from 5 to 41 articles taken from the 1967 issues of the 12 core journals.

These data were collected during 1968 and 1969 and then presented to the author for analysis. Prior to data collection it was decided to limit to 15 the number of citations analyzed for a single journal article. For articles with more than 15 citations, a table of random numbers was used to select the 15 citations to be analyzed in depth.

Table 2. Number of Articles, Range, and Average Number of Citations per Article for 12 Linguistics Journals

Citing Journal	No. of Articles	Total No.	Citations		
			Range	Mean	Median
BSL	21	429	3-52	20.4	16.0
CJL	26	249	3-15	9.6	9.0
FL	28	323	1-50	11.5	8.5
EJAL	37	302	1-33	8.2	6.0
JL	20	386	2-43	19.3	17.5
Lg	24	431	3-58	18.0	10.5
L&S	24	299	3-36	12.5	11.0
Lgua	22	401	2-58	18.2	12.5
Ltcs	26	347	2-55	13.3	9.5
SIL	5	96	6-45	19.2	13.0
SS	21	384	3-61	18.3	16.0
VJa	41	1123	2-123	27.4	22.0
TOTAL	295	4770	1-123	16.2	11.0

2. Findings

The 295 articles analyzed had a total of 4770 citations, with from 1 to 123 citations per article. (See table 2.)

Mean number of citations was 16.2 and median number was 11.0. The latter figure appears to be more meaningful since the mean was probably unduly influenced by articles with large numbers of citations. The Russian journal, VJa, had several articles with unusually high numbers of citations; the two other non-English language journals, BSL and SS, had more than either the mean or median for the total sample. Two of the English-language journals had high numbers of citations; as a group, however, the English-language journals tended to have fewer citations per article. (See table 3.)

Table 3. Breakdown of Number of Citations per Article for 12 Linguistics Journals

Citing Journal	Number of Citations: Number of Articles								Total No. of Articles
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-50	51-100	Over 100	
BSL	1	6	3	3	2	5	1	-	21
CJL	4	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	26
FL	12	6	4	4	1	1	-	-	28
IJAL	16	12	5	1	1	2	-	-	37
JL	2	3	4	5	-	6	-	-	20
Lg	5	7	2	4	1	4	1	-	24
L&S	4	6	9	3	1	1	-	-	24
Lgua	1	6	6	4	2	2	1	-	22
Ltcs	6	9	5	2	1	2	1	-	26
SIL	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	5
SS	3	2	4	6	4	1	1	-	21
VJa	6	5	3	2	8	11	5	1	41
TOTAL	60	76	56	35	21	36	10	1	295

Said another way, of the 47 articles with 26 or more citations, 25 articles were from VJa, BSL, and SS; the remaining 22 articles came from the English-language journals. CJL, published in Canada, had no articles with more than 15 citations. For the total sample of 295 articles, 65.1% of the articles had 15 or fewer citations; for the three non-English-language journals 40% of the articles had 15 or fewer citations; and for the English-language journals, this figure was 71.5%.

The picture presented by the linguistics journals is like that seen in other soft sciences, which in the main use greater numbers of citations than do the hard sciences. Lin and Nelson (1969) noted that three sociological journals contained approximately twice as many citations (medians of 14.5 to 23.8) as an optical journal (9.5 to 9.8).

A computer analysis was made of 2940 citations; elements examined included the title of the cited article, the author, the year the citation was published, and the subject category of the citation and the frequency of these categories. Twenty citations erroneously assigned by the computer to IJ were removed from the tallies since there appeared to be an error in the original coding. The 45 citations dated 1967 were also removed, 1967 being the publication year of the journals used in the study. Because of the time lag usually occurring between the writing and publishing of a specialized article, citing authors would not have had access to most of the articles published in 1967. (The citation dates quoted in the next paragraph bear this out.)

Citation age was determined as follows: articles published between 1962 and 1966 were considered as being five years old or less; those published between 1957 and 1961, as 10 years old or less; and those published between 1952 and 1956, as 15 years old or less. There were 187 citations dated 1966, 293 for 1965, 345 for 1964, 210 for 1963, and 212 for 1962.

Table 4 indicates that 75.5% of the citations analyzed were 15 years old or less, with the percentages of such citations appearing in the 12 citing journals ranging from 57.3 to 89.3.

Table 4. Numbers and Percentages of Citations Dated 1952-1966 in Articles in 12 Linguistics Journals

	BSL	CJL	FL	IJAL	JL	Lg	L&S	Lgua	Ltcs	SIL	SS	VJa	Total
1962-66	82 (33.7)*	93 (38.6)	141 (68.8)	67 (30.5)	126 (52.3)	90 (37.3)	114 (46.7)	117 (49.4)	99 (39.9)	16 (30.2)	110 (45.3)	191 (40.0)	1246 (43.0)
1957-61	39 (16.0)	57 (23.7)	27 (13.2)	43 (19.5)	48 (19.9)	50 (20.7)	65 (26.6)	45 (19.0)	51 (20.6)	16 (30.2)	52 (21.4)	109 (22.8)	602 (20.8)
1952-56	40 (16.5)	27 (11.2)	15 (7.3)	16 (7.3)	27 (11.2)	19 (7.9)	33 (13.5)	26 (11.0)	38 (15.3)	7 (13.2)	33 (13.6)	59 (12.3)	340 (11.7)
Total 15 years	161 (66.7)	177 (73.5)	183 (89.3)	126 (57.3)	201 (83.4)	159 (65.9)	212 (86.8)	188 (79.4)	188 (75.8)	39 (73.6)	195 (80.3)	359 (75.0)	2188 (75.5)
Total No. Citations	244	244	211	225	250	243	248	238	248	55	250	484	2940
No. of 1967 Citations	1	3	6	5	9	2	4	1	0	2	7	5	45
Total No. of Citations less 1967	243	241	205	220	241	241	244	237	248	53	243	479	2895

*Numbers in parenthesis represent percentages (rounded to the nearest tenth) based on the total number of citations less the 1967 citations.

The highs and lows for citations in particular journals and the cumulative percentages for the 10- and 15-year periods are presented in table 5.

Table 5. Percentages of Citations for Linguistics Journals in Various Time Periods, and Cumulative Totals

Years	Citing Journals		Total %				
	Highs (%)	Lows (%)		Cumulative Percentages			
1962-66	FL---68.8	SIL--30.2	43.0				
	JL---52.3	IJAL-30.5		Citing Journals		Total	
				Highs	Lows		
1957-61	SIL--30.2	FL---13.2	20.8	10 Yrs	FL---82.0	BSL--49.7	
	L&S--26.6	BSL--16.0			L&S--73.3	IJAL-50.0	63.8
					JL---72.2		
1952-56	BSL--16.5	FL----7.3	11.7	15 Yrs	FL---89.3	IJAL-57.3	
	Itcs-15.3	IJAL--7.3			LS---86.8	Lg---65.9	75.5
		Lg----7.9			JL---83.4	BSL--66.2	

For the 10-year period, the percentage of citations per journal ranged from 49.7% to 82.0%, with the percentage for the total sample being 63.8%. Of the total sample, 43.0% of the citations were published during the previous five-year period, with a range for citing journals from 30.2% to 68.8%.

Of all the citing journals, FL had the highest percentage of citations published between 1962 and 1966, as well as the highest cumulative percentages, 82.0% and 89.3%, for the 10-year and 15-year periods, respectively.

Median age of the 2940 citations analyzed, including the 45 published in 1967 and the 20 erroneously classified, was found to be seven years, which represented a publication date of 1960. When the 1967 sample was removed, this date

was still 1960 for the total sample. For the 12 citing journals, the medians ranged from 1956-57 through 1964.

When the 1967 sample was removed from the tally, these figures changed very little. (See table 6.)

Table 6. Median Publication Year of Citations in Each of 12 Linguistics Journals

Citing Journal	Median Date	
	Total Sample	Sample With 1967 Removed
BSL	1956-1957 1959 1964	1956
CJL		1959
FL		1964
IJAL	1957 1962 1959	1956-1957
JL		1962
Lg		1959
L&S	1961 1961 1960	1961
Lgua		1961
Ltcs		1960
SIL	1959 1961 1960	1958
SS		1961
VJa		1960
TOTAL	1960	1960

Of 2940 citations, there were sufficient data to classify 2507 or 85.3% of the sample as to type of publication or communication. English-language books (ELB), English-language journals published in the USA (ELJ), and English-language journals published abroad (ELA) accounted for 1332 or 53.1% of the 2507 citations categorized. Table 7 presents the numbers and percentages for each of the categories.

Table 7. Number and Percentage of Citations for Each Category of Publication

Abbreviation and Category of Publication	Citations	
	Number	Percentage
ELB English-language books	644	25.7
ELJ English-language journals, USA	480	19.1
NEB Non-English-language books	268	10.7
FLJ Foreign-language journals	228	9.1
MON Monographs	212	8.5
ELA English-language journals published abroad	208	8.3
MJA* Multilingual journals published abroad MJB* Multilingual books MLJ* Multilingual journals, USA	95	3.8
PRO Published conference proceedings	86	3.4
MIS Miscellaneous incl. pamphlets and term papers	66	2.6
REP Report literature	46	1.8
DSS Theses or dissertations	41	1.6
REV Reviews	39	1.6
NEW Mass Media	30	1.2
ABS Abstracts	26	1.0
PRE Preprints	16	.6
PER Personal communications	15	.6
UPR Unpublished conference papers	7	.3
TOTAL	2507	99.9

* The categories MJA, MJB, and MLJ were combined since it was felt that adequate distinction between the multilingual journals and books had not been made when the data were collected.

For the 2507 documents, it appeared that approximately 48% of the citations were serials, 37% were books, and 15% were in all other categories. (The breakdown for the combined MJ category was estimated.) Serials accounted for 38.5% (Broadus 1967) and 38.8% (Lin and Nelson 1969) of all citations in studies in the field of sociology, whereas Thuronyi and Rigby (1966) note that 78.3% of geophysical citations were serials. The difference between hard and soft science is undoubtedly related to the age of core literature in these areas.

Median date of publication and median age were then determined for several kinds of citations as shown in table 8. For 1655 of the citations, median date of publication was found to be 1960, identical with the date for the total sample of 2940. Median dates ranged from 1959 through 1964.

Table 8. Median Date and Median Age of Citations in Various Categories of Publications.

Category of Publication	Number of Citation	Median Publication Date
ELA English-language journals published abroad	208	1964
ELB English-language books	644	1959
ELJ English-language journals, USA	480	1960
FLJ Foreign-language journals	228	1960
MJA Multilingual journals published abroad	95	1962
MJB Multilingual books		
MLJ Multilingual journals, USA		
Total of above categories and median date	1655	1960
Number of journal articles and median date	1148	1961

The English-language journals published abroad (ELA) provided the newest citations, while English-language books published in the United States (ELB) furnished the oldest. The latter

fact is attributable to the number of very old books still used as standard reference texts. A sample of 1148 journal articles cited had a median publication date of 1961, as opposed to the median of 1959 for English language books cited. The fact that journal articles cited were on the average more recently published than the books cited is not suprising. Lin and Nelson (1969) noted that, according to 1965-66 data for three sociological journals, the publication date of journal articles cited was 0.2 to 2.01 years later than that of books cited.

Table 9 gives the breakdown of the kinds of citations found in the 12 citing journals studied. (It will be remembered that there were sufficient data to classify only 2507 of the 2940 citations.)

Table 9. Number of Citations in Each Category of Publication in Each of 12 Linguistics Journals

Category of Publication	BSL	CJL	FL	IJAL	JL	LG	L&S	Lgua	Ltcs	SIL	SS	VJa	TOTAL
ELB	55	73	62	29	46	46	50	44	63	16	20	140	644
ELJ	4	56	39	106	43	96	30	47	33	12	9	5	480
NEB	37	46	11	1	11	-	11	30	25	6	61	29	268
FLJ	26	8	5	4	12	2	20	19	14	1	49	68	228
MON	12	8	18	23	34	16	45	11	23	2	-	20	212
ELA	40	12	23	1	22	27	4	14	10	1	-	54	208
MJA	37	-	8	4	12	-	13	3	5	-	-	13	95
MJB													
MLJ													
PRO	1	6	6	8	13	10	9	16	6	2	4	5	86
MIS	10	5	5	28	7	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
REP	-	5	7	12	7	12	1	-	-	-	2	-	46
DSS	-	5	2	4	2	10	6	2	4	1	2	3	41
REV	1	6	3	5	2	-	3	4	5	5	2	3	39
NEW	10	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	30
ABS	-	-	-	13	2	1	7	-	-	-	-	3	26
PRE	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	8	16
PER	1	-	3	-	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	15
UPR	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Total	242	231	193	239	226	232	210	192	192	47	151	352	2507

The 295 citing journal articles analyzed were authored by 282 individuals, six of whom authored more than one article. This tabulation was based on a computer analysis which had accepted only one author for each citing article; in the few instances when there was more than one author per article, the name listed first was accepted. That there were so many authors with only one article in this sample is not surprising since all of the journals were published in the same year, 1967. Of the 282 authors of citing articles, 138 or 48.9% cited themselves between one and 10 times. As table 10 indicates, 132 cited themselves between one and nine times in the same article; five cited themselves in two articles, and one in three articles.

Table 10. Authors Citing Themselves in Articles Published in 12 Linguistics Journals

Number of Citations	Number of Authors Citing Themselves		
	1 article	2 articles	3 articles
1	62		
2	31		
3	21		
4	8	1	
5	4	3	
6	3		
8	2		
9	1	1	
10	-	-	1
Total Number of Self-Citing Authors	132	5	1

Of the 2940 citations analyzed, 2524 were attributed to 1728 authors; citations attributed to more than one author were picked up for each of the authors listed. The remaining

citations were listed as coming from such sources as reports or proceedings, with the result that specific author names were not picked up by the computer. Of the 1728 authors, 1024, or 59.3%, were cited only once; the others were cited as many as 65 times. (See table 11.) These data would appear to be an indication that certain authors are considered authorities in linguistics.

Table 11. Distribution of Authors of Citations

Number of Citations	Number of Authors	Cumulative No. of Authors	Number of Citations	Number of Authors	Cumulative No. of Authors
1	1024	1024	16	4	1712
2	311	1335	17	1	1713
3	138	1473	18	1	1714
4	88	1561	19	1	1715
5	43	1604	20	2	1717
6	30	1634	24	1	1718
7	19	1653	25	1	1719
8	14	1667	26	1	1720
9	18	1685	27	1	1721
10	7	1692	30	1	1722
11	3	1695	31	1	1723
12	7	1702	41	1	1724
13	3	1705	43	1	1725
14	1	1706	44	1	1726
15	2	1708	59	1	1727
			65	1	1728

While there has been disagreement over the limits and internal structure of the general area of linguistics and the language sciences, a very broad view has been taken for purposes of classifying the citations in this study. In addition to comparative, descriptive, computational, and mathematical linguistics, the area of linguistics and the language sciences has included philology, semantics, dialectology, lexicography, and stylistics as well as the psychological and sociological aspects of language. A special category labelled speech distinguished citations that were closely related to sound and hearing.

On this basis, it was found that 83.1% of the identifiable citations were in the area of linguistics (91.9% of the total number of citations were identifiable). When the citations for L&S (which had a higher percentage of "speech" citations than the other journals) were removed from the total, 85.6% were in the area of linguistics; and when the citations for FL and L&S were removed, this percentage was 87.1.

As table 12 indicates, the percentage of identifiable citations was essentially the same in each instance. The percentages in other disciplines, including mathematics, natural and physical sciences, and the information sciences, remained essentially the same, as did citations classified in the area of anthropology.

It will be noted that the number of documents identified as to their general content (tables 12 and 13) is greater than the number identified by type of publication (table 9). This discrepancy can be explained by the fact that the tabulation for table 9 was done by computer, based on data collected during 1968, while that for tables 12 and 13 was based on a subjective evaluation for each title.

Of the total sample of 2940 citations there were 510 citations or 17.3% to the 12 core journals. There were 151 citations (29.6%) to Lg, 93 to IJAL (18.2%), and 50 to VJa (9.8%). Thus, 57.6% of all citations to the core journals were to these three journals. Of the 91 citations in SS and JFa only 6 were to a journal published in the English language. (See table 14.)

According to a tally of citations to a selected list of documents there were 75 references to Word and from 10 to 24 references to other publications in the 12 citing journals. These are given in table 15.

Table 12. Percentage of Citations in Linguistics and other Disciplines in 12, 11, and 10 Linguistics Journals

Discipline	Citing Journals		
	For 12 Journals	For 11 Journals (minus L&S)	For 10 Journals (minus L&S and FL)
Linguistics	83.1%	85.6%	87.1%
Speech	5.3	3.8	3.3
Psychology	3.0	1.8	1.5
Anthropology	2.4	2.6	2.7
Philosophy	2.0	2.2	1.0
Other disciplines	4.3	4.1	4.2
Total citations identified	2703	2488	2273
Total citations listed	2940	2692	2481
Percentage of citations identified	91.9	92.4	91.6

Table 13. Citations from 12 Linguistics Journals Classified According to General Content

General Content	Number of Citations in Each Citing Journal												
	ESL	CJL	FL	IJAL	JL	Lg	LES	Lgua	Ltcs	SIL	SS	VJa	Total
Linguistics	184	201	141	192	222	209	115	204	205	37	199	336	2245
Speech	7	13	17	2	6	4	49	10	10	3	4	18	143
Psychology	4	5	8	2	-	4	37	8	5	-	-	8	81
Anthropology	10	4	2	11	-	13	-	5	2	2	3	12	64
Philosophy	-	2	31	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	10	5	54
Other Disciplines	14	10	6	8	9	7	14	9	12	4	9	14	116
Total Identified	219	235	295	216	239	237	215	236	237	46	225	393	2703
Total No. Citations	244	244	211	225	250	243	248	238	248	55	250	484	2940

Table 14. Number of Citations to Each of 12 Linguistics Journals

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of self-citation.

Percentage of Self-Citation.													
Journals Cited	Citing Journal												
	BSL	CJL	FL	IJAL	JL	Lg	L&S	Lgua	Ltcs	SIL	SS	VJa	Total
BSL	23 (9.4)	1	2	2	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	36
CJL	-	6 (2.5)	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
FL	4	-	15 (7.1)	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	24
IJAL	-	8	4	55 (24.4)	2	8	4	5	3	-	1	3	93
JL	-	1	3	-	9 (3.6)	2	-	5	1	-	-	-	21
Lg	7	18	13	22	24 (9.9)	24	4	15	16	9	-	2	151
L&S	-	-	-	-	1	-	18 (7.3)	3	2	-	-	-	24
Lgua	2	-	2	1	8	1	-	13 (5.5)	4	-	-	-	31
Ltcs	1	1	1	1	2	-	1	4	3 (1.2)	-	1	1	16
SIL	-	2	-	1	1	5	-	1	1	1 (1.8)	-	-	12
SS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32 (12.8)	9	41
VJa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4 (9.1)	44	50
Total Citations	37	37	40	85	49	43	27	50	33	10	38	61	510 (17.3)
Total Sample	244	244	211	225	250	243	248	238	248	55	250	484	2940

Table 15. Number of Citations in 12 Linguistics Journals to Selected References.

Cited Reference	Citing Journals												
	BSL	CJL	FL	IJAL	JL	Lg	L&S	Lgua	Ltcs	SIL	SS	VJa	Total
Word	3	11	1	5	11	4	7	14	13	-	2	4	75
Travaux linguistiques de Prague (TLP)	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	2	2	-	12	3	24
Aspects of the theory of syntax	-	1	8	1	3	4	2	2	-	-	1	-	22
Proceedings of the 9th International Congress of Linguists	-	1	1	3	2	2	-	8	3	-	-	-	20
Journal asiatique (LI Series) (JA)	-	-	1	1	6	1	-	3	4	-	-	1	17
An integrated theory of linguistic descriptions	-	-	6	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	14
Monograph series on languages and linguistics (MSLL)	1	3	1	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Phonetica	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	3	-	-	1	3	14
A course in modern linguistics	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	10
Total	5	20	18	10	38	19	13	34	24	-	17	12	210

(Table 15 Cont'd)

Note: Bibliographic information on references is as follows:

Word. New York: International Linguistic Association (formerly Linguistic Circle of New York), 1945--. Irregular

Vachek, Josef, ed. (vols. 1,2); Isačenko, Alexander, ed. (vol. 3) Travaux linguistiques de Prague. 3 vols. University, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1966-1968.

Chomsky, Noam. Aspects of the theory of syntax. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1965.

Lunt, Horace G., ed. Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of linguists, Cambridge, Massachusetts., August 27-31, 1962. The Hague: Mouton, 1964.

Journal Asiatique (LI Series). Paris: Librairie Orientaliste, 1822--.

Katz, Jerrold J.; Postal, Paul M. An integrated theory of linguistic descriptions. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1964.

Monograph series on languages and linguistics. Washington, D.C.: School of languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University, 1951--. Annual.

Phonetica. Basel, Switzerland: S. Karger, 1957--. Bi-monthly.

Hockett, Charles F. A course in modern linguistics. New York: Macmillan, 1958.

3. Summary and Conclusions

A study was made of the characteristics of citations in articles appearing in the 1967 editions of 12 core journals in the general area of linguistics and the language sciences. Data were collected during 1968 and 1969, computer analysis of these data was made late in 1969, and the findings and this final report were developed in 1970. Except for the data presented in tables 12 and 13, which are based on a subjective evaluation, all of the figures presented herein are the result of this computer analysis. All percentages were made on a manual calculator.

There are certain findings of interest in connection with citation studies in general and the linguistics and language sciences area in particular. There were 4770 citations for the 295 citing articles from the 12 core journals. These articles had a mean number of 16.2 citations and a median of 11.0 citations. The latter figure is considered more meaningful in view of the fact that the mean was unduly influenced by several journal articles with very large numbers of citations. Data were collected for a maximum number of 15 citations for any one citing article. Actually, 192 of the citing articles, or 65.1% of the sample of 295, did have 15 or fewer citations. Of the remaining 103 citing articles, 50 of the articles came from BSL (Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris), SS (Slovo a Slovesnost), and VJa (Voprosy Jazykoznanija) while 53 came from FL (Foundations of Language), IJAL (International Journal of American Linguistics), JL (Journal of Linguistics), Lg (Language), L&S (Language and Speech), Lgua (Lingua), Ltcs (Linguistics), and SIL (Studies in Linguistics). CJL (Canadian Journal of Linguistics) had no articles with more than 15 citations.

Median year of publication of 2940 citations was 1960, with a journal-by-journal range of medians from 1956-57 to 1964. Median publication date for a sample of journal articles was 1961, two years later than that for the English-language books cited in the study. The publication dates for the citations indicate an upsurge in the 1930's when linguistics was given a special impetus and, as would be expected, a downward trend during World War II.

Of the 1728 authors of citations listed, 43 were cited 10 or more times and the citations attributed to any one author range from 1 to 65. The fact that a handful of authors were cited repeatedly indicates that certain authors are considered authorities in the discipline and suggests the existence of an informal college.

It was found that 83.1% of all the citations were broadly categorized as being in the general area of linguistics. When L&S was removed from the total, this percentage rose to 85.6%. As would be expected, 49 of the 143 articles attributed to the field of speech were in L&S. When FL was removed from the tally, the percentage rose to 87.1%; 31 of the 54 citations in the area of philosophy appeared in FL. In the citing journals the percentage of citations concerning linguistics ranged from 53.5% for L&S to 92.9% for JL.

For the total sample, 5.3% of the citations were in speech, 3.0% in psychology, 2.4% in anthropology, 2.0% in philosophy, and 4.3% in all other disciplines. This last figure included mathematics and the hard sciences as well as other areas in the humanities.

Citations to the 12 core journals themselves numbered 510 or 17.3% of the sample of 2940 items. Lg had 151 citations, IJAL had 93, and Word 75.

These findings are in general agreement with those of similar studies in the soft sciences, particularly in terms of number of citations and age of serials versus books. More data are required before more definite conclusions can be reached. In addition to a study utilizing the data on the authors cited repeatedly, it would be useful to make one of citation patterns and information transfer during several time periods to determine the changes that have occurred.

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